

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

FINANCE

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2014

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The Honorable Thomas E. Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We were pleased to learn that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking to ensure greater location accuracy for our nation's 911 systems.

As we understand it, the FCC's proposed rule addressing "Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements" would give first responders an important tool to assist them in locating 911 callers who, under the current system, oftentimes cannot be located or assisted in a timely manner because they made their 911 call on a cellular phone from indoors.

According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, two-thirds of 911 calls made in Delaware County Pennsylvania (a county of 561,000 residents) have inaccurate location information."

We have also heard concerns from Pennsylvania law enforcement. The Major Cities Chiefs Association, including chiefs of the two largest municipal police departments in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, have also urged the FCC to act to improve first responders' ability to locate 911 callers who use cellular phones indoors.

We encourage the FCC to adopt the most protective standards that are technologically feasible. We also hope the FCC will thoroughly examine the record with an eye toward ensuring any future requirements are flexible to accommodate evolving technologies. It is our understanding that the FCC's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC IV) is currently working to provide the FCC a report with recommendations for indoor testing, including setting up parameters for a common test bed to examine technologies. This effort would help create a single, standardized method for evaluating the ability of current and emerging technologies for the purpose of improving indoor location of wireless 911 callers.

Law enforcement agencies, first responders, and the citizens of Pennsylvania who rely on their aid deserve a fast, effective 911 system. We encourage you to continue pursuing measures to achieve that goal. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Pat Toomey
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 27, 2014

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter conveying your support for the recent proposed changes to the Commission's rules governing wireless E911 location accuracy. The Commission must preserve certain core values even as technology advances and consumers' use of that technology evolves. Nowhere is that imperative more clear than in the arena of public safety. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

Our original E911 location accuracy rules were written when wireless phones were a secondary means of communication, and were mostly used outside. However, today, more and more consumers use wireless phones as their primary means of communication, and 9-1-1 calls are increasingly being made from wireless phones while indoors. Our rules need to reflect these new realities. The proposals on which we sought comment in February seek to ensure that our rules continue to evolve along with technology and changing consumer habits. The input we expect to receive from the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council will be a critical component of this process.

Thank you again for your support and being a leading advocate on this critical issue. I look forward to working with you and your staff in the future on these and other important public safety issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 27, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
United States Senate
510 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

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Tom Wheeler